Appl. No. 10/660,206
Preliminary Amendment dated April 23, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants have canceled claims 1-24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation application.

Applicants have added new claims 44-62. New claims 44-62 are supported throughout the specification, including at page 11, line 15 to page 13, line 7, page 14, line 4 to line 22, and page 23, line 20 to page 28. Applicants submit the newly presented claims do not raise any issues of new matter.

Summary

Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 (612) 332-5300

Date: April 23, 7004

Katherine M. Kowalchyk

Reg. No. 36,848

KMK:sab

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK DITIOS